(d) Government remain firm in their resolve to take all necessary measures to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country. While Government will continue to scrupulously maintain its policy of restraint, it will effectively respond, as it has demonstrated in the past, to any threat to our security and territorial integrity.

Phone Tapping of South African Cricket Captain

4915. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of South Africa, lodging a protest for phone tapping, have asked Government for access to the tape recording alleged to contain conversation of the Captain of the South African Cricket Team with an Indian bookie for match fixing during the team's recent visit to the country on the basis of which an FIR has been filed by the Police;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with its likely repercussions on the bilateral relations between the two countries; and

(c) the steps taken by government to solve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No Sir. The South African government has not lodged any protest with regard to phone tapping. The South African High Commissioner in New Delhi has, however, requested for access to the tapes containing the recorded conversation between the South African Cricket Captain and an Indian bookie for match fixation.

(b) and (c) The request of the South African side for access to those tapes has been conveyed to the Delhi Police. A decision will be taken in conformity with the provisions and procedures of law. The South African authorities have promised to extend all necessary help to the Government of India to probe this matter. Both the sides have reiterated that this incident will not in any way affect India-South Africa bilateral relations which are close and cordial and part of a strategic partnership.

Terrorist Camps in Bhutan

4916. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item regarding the hobnobbing of Bhutan King with ULFA published in Hindustan Times on 25th April, 2000;

(b) if so, Government's reaction is this regard;

(c) whether any joint venture proposed to flush out terrorist camps from Bhutan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) "The Government is aware of the news item referred to in the question".

(b) to (d) "The Government of Bhutan have informed the Government of India that they have held a dialogue with the ULFA militants, to persuade them to leave Bhutan. The presence of ULFA Militants in Bhutan has been a subject of discussion with Bhutan. Both sides share concern on this issue. The matter was discussed with the King of Bhutan during his visit to India in October 1998, the visit of External Affairs Minister to Bhutan in April 1999 and the recent visit of the Foreign Minister of Bhutan to India. The kind has reiterated that Bhutan would not allow its territory to be misused against the interests of India. India and Bhutan remain in constant touch to find a solution to this issue and are co-operating with each other in this regard".

Expenses Incurred on Clinton's visit

4917. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had to spend a huge amount of the tour of US President; and

(b) if so, the details of the expenses incurred by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Expenditure incurred was generally in line with that incurred for such important high-level visits.

(b) All birds are yet to be received from agencies concerned.